

AMHERST/LA PAZ CENTRO SISTER CITY COMMITTEE

Minutes

September 25, 2012

PRESENT: Liz Etheridge, Olivia and Victoria Feyre-Febonio, Chuck and Nancy Milch, Kathy and Walter Mullin, Mary Santiago, Ed and Anne Stanek, Lydia Vernon-Jones, Carol Wood.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Kathy reported that the following:

2012 Income:

September Tag Sale:	\$2852
Letter and Coffee Sales:	\$4242
TOTAL:	\$7094

2012 Expenses:

Scholarship program	\$6176
Julio Salary, Electricity, etc.	\$1510
TOTAL SENT TO LPC	\$7686 (more already than income raised)

Other expenses:

Plane tickets	\$1265
Fundraising	\$ 175
Wiring fees, etc.	\$ 225.50
TOTAL:	\$9351.50

As we have spent about \$2258 more than our income this year, we decided that we need to establish a minimum to be left untouched in our account to protect us in a lean fundraising year. We voted that that amount should be \$3000.

JULIO'S REPORT (via Mary)

The electric bill for the Community Center this month has fallen dramatically to 200 cordobas – down from the 1600 cordobas that it has been. It seems clear that the electric company had been charging us different rates and perhaps Julio has finally managed to take care of that.

The electricity in Nicaragua will be changing from 220 volts to 110 volts. It is unclear how this might affect future electric bills.

Julio has contracted Dengue Fever so has been out of commission for a while. We hope he recovers soon.

We agreed to cover the cost of two students for the Computer Course with Leonel for a total of \$180. **Mary** will ask Julio to pick two students who are capable of completing the 6-month course and would be most likely to use the knowledge acquired. We suggested that it might be best to have two graduates but will leave it up to his discretion.

ANNUAL FUNDRAISING LETTER

Lydia agreed to edit/write our fundraising letter and the brochure this year. She will have rough drafts for our next meeting.

COOKING STOVES

Lydia suggested that we look into solar cookers or less polluting woodstoves as a possible project in Felipe Lopez. Julie North, the Peace Corps worker, is actively building solar stoves in outlying areas. We suggested that she might consider helping residents build one at the Community Center as a pilot project. This might open up more leadership opportunities for the scholarship students and others. **Liz** will check into cost and possibilities with Liz and her niece, Allison, who is a Peace Corps worker in San Ramon, Nicaragua.

Our NEXT MEETING will be on MONDAY, OCTOBER 15TH at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Stanek,

Chair